

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-4, 6-30 and 32-80 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 6-7, 26-27, 32-34, and 52 have been amended. Claims 5 and 31 have been canceled. New claims 53-80 have been added.

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method of communicating administrative information related to the monitoring of a network-based auction facility, the method including:

generating an administrative note pertaining to an administrator-selected aspect of an on-line auction facilitated by the network-based auction facility, wherein the administrative note includes type information identifying the administrative note as being of a first type of a predetermined set of administrative note types;

associating the administrative note with the administrator-selected aspect of the on-line auction; and

displaying a note indicator, on a display unit of a network device, to indicate an association of the administrative note with the administrator-selected aspect of the on-line auction when displaying information concerning the administrator-selected aspect on the display of the network device.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the administrator-selected aspect comprises a user of the network-based auction facility.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the administrator-selected aspect comprises an item offered for auction via the network-based auction facility.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 including associating the administrative note with multiple administrator-selected aspects of the on-line auction.
5. (Canceled)
6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~5~~1 wherein generating the administrative note includes providing a menu of the predetermined set of administrative note types for user selection.
7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~5~~1 wherein the type information indicates a reason for the generation of the administrative note.
8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein generating the administrative note includes providing a user interface via which an administrator of the network-based auction facility is prompted to identify the administrator-selected aspect of the on-line auction.
9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8 wherein the administrator-selected aspect comprises a user and the user interface prompts the administrator to input a user identifier.
10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8 wherein the administrator-selected aspect comprises an item offered for auction via the network-based auction facility and the user interface prompts the administrator to input an item identifier.
11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein generating the administrative note includes calling a note function from any one of a plurality of administrative functions implemented by the network-based auction facility.
12. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the note function comprises an Application Program Interface (API).

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein displaying a note indicator includes calling a note function that searches a plurality of administrative notes to locate an administrative note based on the administrator-selected aspect.
14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein displaying a note indicator comprises displaying a graphic icon adjacent a text identifier for the administrator-selected aspect.
15. (Previously Presented) A computer-implemented method of communicating administrative information concerning a user of a network-based auction facility, the method including:
- automatically invoking a note creation function from one of a plurality of administrative applications of the network-based auction facility;
 - generating an administrative note via the note creation function,
 - where the note creation function associates the administrative note with the user, as identified by an administrator of the network-based auction facility to the note creation function;
 - and
 - storing the administrative note in a database.
16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15 wherein said automatically invoking the note creation function includes invoking a note creation user interface that presents a predetermined set of administrative note types for selection by the administrator, each administrative note type providing a reason for creation of the administrative note.
17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16 including presenting, via the note creation interface, the predetermined set of administrative note types for selection to the administrator as a drop-down menu.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16 including prompting the user, via the note creation user interface, for any one of a group of information items to be included within the administrative note concerning the user including a user identifier and whether the user is to be suspended.
19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15 including searching, via a note search function, a plurality of administrative notes based on user information.
20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15 including searching, via a note search function, a plurality of administrative notes based on auction item information.
21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15 including searching, via a note search function, a plurality of administrative notes based on type information, specifying a reason for the creation of the administrative note.
22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15 including searching, via a note search function, a plurality of administrative notes based on addressor information.
23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15 including searching, via a note search function, a plurality of administrative notes based on addressee information.
24. (Original) The method of claim 19 wherein the note search function requires verification of identity of the administrator before permitting the search.
25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15 including purging the administrative note after an indicated expiration period.
26. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable medium storing a sequence of instructions that, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to:

generate administrative data pertaining to an administrator-selected aspect of an on-line auction facilitated by the network-based auction facility;

associate the administrative data with the administrator-selected aspect of the on-line auction, wherein the administrative data includes type information identifying the administrative data as being of a first type of a predetermined set of administrative data types; and

display a data indicator to indicate an association of the administrative data with the administrator selected aspect of the on-line auction when displaying information concerning the administrator-selected aspect on a display unit of a network device.

27. (Currently Amended) A system to communicate administrative information related to the monitoring of a network-based auction facility, the system including:

a computing device;

a note creation application, executing on the computing device, to facilitate creation of an administrative note pertaining to an administrator-selected aspect of an on-line auction facilitated by the network-based auction facility, and to associate the administrative note with the administrator-selected aspect of the on-line auction, wherein the administrative note includes type information identifying the administrative note as being of a first type of a predetermined set of administrative note types; and

a note displaying application, executing on the computing device, to display a note indicator to indicate an association of the administrative note with the administrator-selected aspect of the on-line auction when displaying information concerning the administrator-selected aspect on a display unit of a network device.

28. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 27 wherein the administrator-selected aspect comprises a user of the network-based auction facility.

29. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 27 wherein the administrator-selected aspect comprises an item offered for auction via the network-based auction facility.

30. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 27 wherein the note creation application associates the administrative note with multiple administrator-selected aspects of the on-line auction.
31. (Canceled)
32. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~31~~27 wherein the note ~~display~~ displaying application generates a menu of the predetermined set of administrative note types for user selection.
33. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~31~~27 wherein the type information indicates a reason for the generation of the administrative note.
34. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~31~~27 wherein the note ~~display~~ displaying application provides a user interface via which an administrator of the network-based auction facility is prompted to identify the administrator-selected aspect of the on-line auction.
35. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 34 wherein the administrator-selected aspect comprises a user and the user interface prompts the administrator to input a user identifier.
36. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 34 wherein the administrator-selected aspect comprises an item offered for auction via the network-based auction facility and the user interface prompts the administrator to input an item identifier.
37. (Original) The system of claim 27 wherein the note creation application includes a note function of a plurality of administrative functions implemented by the network-based auction facility.

38. (Original) The system of claim 37 wherein the note function is accessed via an Application Program Interface (API).
39. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 27 including a note search application that searches a plurality of administrative notes to locate an administrative note based on the administrator-selected aspect.
40. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 27 wherein the note ~~display~~ displaying application displays a graphic icon adjacent a text identifier for the administrator-selected aspect.
41. (Previously Presented) A system to communicate administrative information concerning a user of a network-based auction facility, the system including:
- a computing device;
 - a note creation function, executing on the computing device, to facilitate creation of an administrative note concerning the user of the network-based auction facility; and
 - an administrative function, executing on the computing device, automatically to invoke the note creation function from one of a plurality of administrative applications of the network-based auction facility,
- where the note creation function associates the administrative note with the user, as identified by an administrator of the network-based auction facility to the note creation function.
42. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 41 including a note creation user interface, that is invocable by the note creation function, that presents a predetermined set of administrative note types for selection by the administrator, each administrative note type provoking a reason for creation of the administrative note.
43. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 42 wherein the note creation interface presents the predetermined set of administrative note types for selection to the administrator as a drop-down menu.

44. (Original) The system of claim 42 wherein the note creation user interface prompts the user for any one of a group of information items to be included within the administrative note concerning the user including a user identifier and whether the user is to be suspended.
45. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 41 including a note search function that facilitates the searching of a plurality of administrative notes based on user information.
46. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 41 including a note search function that facilitates the searching of a plurality of administrative notes based on auction item information.
47. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 41 including a note search function that facilitates the searching of a plurality of administrative notes based on type information, specifying a reason for the creation of the administrative note.
48. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 41 including a note search function that facilitates searching of a plurality of administrative notes based on addressor information.
49. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 41 including a note search function that facilitates searching of a plurality of administrative notes based on addressee information.
50. (Original) The system of claim 45 wherein the note search function requires verification of identity of the administrator before permitting the search.
51. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 41 wherein the note creation function purges the administrative note after an indicated expiration period.
52. (Currently Amended) A system to communicate administrative information relating to the monitoring of a network-based auction facility, the system including:

means for facilitating creation of an administrative note pertaining to an administrator-selected aspect of an on-line auction facilitated by the network-based auction facility, and for associating the administrative note with the administrator-selected aspect of the on-line auction, wherein the administrative note includes type information identifying the administrative note as being of a first type of a predetermined set of administrative note types; and

means for displaying a note indicator to indicate an association of the administrative note with the administrator-selected aspect of the on-line auction when displaying information concerning the administrator-selected aspect on a display unit of a network device.

53. (New) A computer-implemented method of communicating administrative information related to the monitoring of a network-based auction facility, the method including:

generating an administrative note pertaining to an administrator-selected aspect of an on-line auction facilitated by the network-based auction facility;

associating the administrative note with the administrator-selected aspect of the on-line auction; and

displaying a note indicator, on a display unit of a network device, to indicate an association of the administrative note with the administrator-selected aspect of the on-line auction when displaying information concerning the administrator-selected aspect on the display of the network device,

wherein displaying the note indicator includes calling a note function that searches a plurality of administrative notes to locate the administrative note based on the administrator-selected aspect.

54. (New) The method of claim 53 wherein the administrator-selected aspect comprises a user of the network-based auction facility.

55. (New) The method of claim 53 wherein the administrator-selected aspect comprises an item offered for auction via the network-based auction facility.

56. (New) The method of claim 53 including associating the administrative note with multiple administrator-selected aspects of the on-line auction.

57. (New) The method of claim 53 wherein the administrative note includes type information identifying the administrative note as being of a first type of a predetermined set of administrative note types.

58. (New) The method of claim 57 wherein generating the administrative note includes providing a menu of the predetermined set of administrative note types for user selection.

59. (New) The method of claim 57 wherein the type information indicates a reason for the generation of the administrative note.

60. (New) The method of claim 53 wherein generating the administrative note includes providing a user interface via which an administrator of the network-based auction facility is prompted to identify the administrator-selected aspect of the on-line auction.

61. (New) The method of claim 60 wherein the administrator-selected aspect comprises a user and the user interface prompts the administrator to input a user identifier.

62. (New) The method of claim 60 wherein the administrator-selected aspect comprises an item offered for auction via the network-based auction facility and the user interface prompts the administrator to input an item identifier.

63. (New) The method of claim 53 wherein generating the administrative note includes calling a note function from any one of a plurality of administrative functions implemented by the network-based auction facility.

64. (New) The method of claim 63 wherein the note function comprises an Application Program Interface (API).
65. (New) The method of claim 53 wherein displaying a note indicator comprises displaying a graphic icon adjacent a text identifier for the administrator-selected aspect.
66. (New) A system to communicate administrative information related to the monitoring of a network-based auction facility, the system including:
- a computing device;
 - a note creation application, executing on the computing device, to facilitate creation of an administrative note pertaining to an administrator-selected aspect of an on-line auction facilitated by the network-based auction facility, and to associate the administrative note with the administrator-selected aspect of the on-line auction;
 - a note displaying application, executing on the computing device, to display a note indicator to indicate an association of the administrative note with the administrator-selected aspect of the on-line auction when displaying information concerning the administrator-selected aspect on a display unit of a network device; and
 - a note search application to search a plurality of administrative notes and to locate the administrative note based on the administrator-selected aspect.
67. (New) The system of claim 66 wherein the administrator-selected aspect comprises a user of the network-based auction facility.
68. (New) The system of claim 66 wherein the administrator-selected aspect comprises an item offered for auction via the network-based auction facility.
69. (New) The system of claim 66 wherein the note creation application associates the administrative note with multiple administrator-selected aspects of the on-line auction.

70. (New) The system of claim 66 wherein the administrative note includes type information identifying the administrative note as being of a first type of a predetermined set of administrative note types.
71. (New) The system of claim 70 wherein the note displaying application generates a menu of the predetermined set of administrative note types for user selection.
72. (New) The system of claim 70 wherein the type information indicates a reason for the generation of the administrative note.
73. (New) The system of claim 70 wherein the note displaying application provides a user interface via which an administrator of the network-based auction facility is prompted to identify the administrator-selected aspect of the on-line auction.
74. (New) The system of claim 73 wherein the administrator-selected aspect comprises a user and the user interface prompts the administrator to input a user identifier.
75. (New) The system of claim 73 wherein the administrator-selected aspect comprises an item offered for auction via the network-based auction facility and the user interface prompts the administrator to input an item identifier.
76. (New) The system of claim 66 wherein the note creation application includes a note function of a plurality of administrative functions implemented by the network-based auction facility.
77. (New) The system of claim 76 wherein the note function is accessed via an Application Program Interface (API).

78. (New) The system of claim 66 wherein the note displaying application displays a graphic icon adjacent a text identifier for the administrator-selected aspect.

79. (New) A machine-readable medium storing a sequence of instructions that, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to:

generate administrative data pertaining to an administrator-selected aspect of an on-line auction facilitated by the network-based auction facility;

associate the administrative data with the administrator-selected aspect of the on-line auction; and

display a data indicator to indicate an association of the administrative data with the administrator selected aspect of the on-line auction when displaying information concerning the administrator-selected aspect on a display unit of a network device, and to call a function that searches a plurality of administrative data to locate the administrative data based on the administrator-selected aspect.

80. (New) A system to communicate administrative information relating to the monitoring of a network-based auction facility, the system including:

means for facilitating creation of an administrative note pertaining to an administrator-selected aspect of an on-line auction facilitated by the network-based auction facility, and for associating the administrative note with the administrator-selected aspect of the on-line auction; and

means for displaying a note indicator to indicate an association of the administrative note with the administrator-selected aspect of the on-line auction when displaying information concerning the administrator-selected aspect on a display unit of a network device,

wherein the means for displaying the note indicator is to call a note function that searches a plurality of administrative notes to locate the administrative note based on the administrator-selected aspect.